

A NEW RIPERSIA (HOMOP.) ATTACKING  
WHEAT

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While examining the roots of wheat in the dry farm region in Salt Lake County, Utah, in May, 1927, we found that a number of the plants were infested with a coccid which was more or less covered by a considerable amount of white, cottony secretion. Further examination showed that the insect was much more abundant on the roots of the common June grass which covers the uncultivated lands throughout this region and which was very abundant in this field of dry land wheat. This grass is doubtless the native host for this insect. The infestations are local. Small areas a few feet or a few yards in diameter may be badly infested while other plants, near by, may have none of the coccids on them.

In the areas where the June grass is badly infested many of the insects have gone over to the roots of the wheat; sometimes 75 to 80 per cent of the wheat plants in these infested areas showed some infestation. The field where these were first found had been uncultivated for several years previous to this and was entirely covered with June grass. It was poorly disced before the wheat was sown, so the grass is still very abundant throughout the field. It is too early yet to determine whether this species will prove to be of economic importance on the wheat. It is quite possible that as the grass ripens and dries, more of the insects may migrate to the roots of the wheat. If they become at all abundant on the wheat they may seriously affect the plants. The wheat in this dry farm region usually needs all of the moisture that its roots can gather and roots infested with such a sucking insect as this cannot properly perform their function.

As the insect is apparently undescribed a description follows:

***Ripersia arenaria* Doane and Steinweden, n. sp.**

Adults covered with a considerable amount of white cottony secretion. Length on slide 2 to 3 mm. General form of body oval, somewhat elongate.

Antennæ short, six-segmented (figure F).

Leg short (figure E).

Derm with multilocular pores (figure B) and short, stout setæ (figure C) on both dorsal and ventral sides, more numerous on dorsum, especially in posterior region of body. A few small, scattered tubular ducts (figure D) on both ventral and dorsal sides. No triangular or quinquelocular pores. A few scattered, long, slender body setæ down center of body and at posterior region, both dorsally and ventrally.

Cerarii absent.

Anal ring simple with six anal setæ arranged in two groups on each side (figure A). Only a few simple anal pores.

Anal lobes inconspicuous with only one long, slender, hair-like seta.

Type locality: On roots of June grass (*Bromus arenarius*), near Salt Lake City, Utah.

Type slide deposited in Stanford University collection.

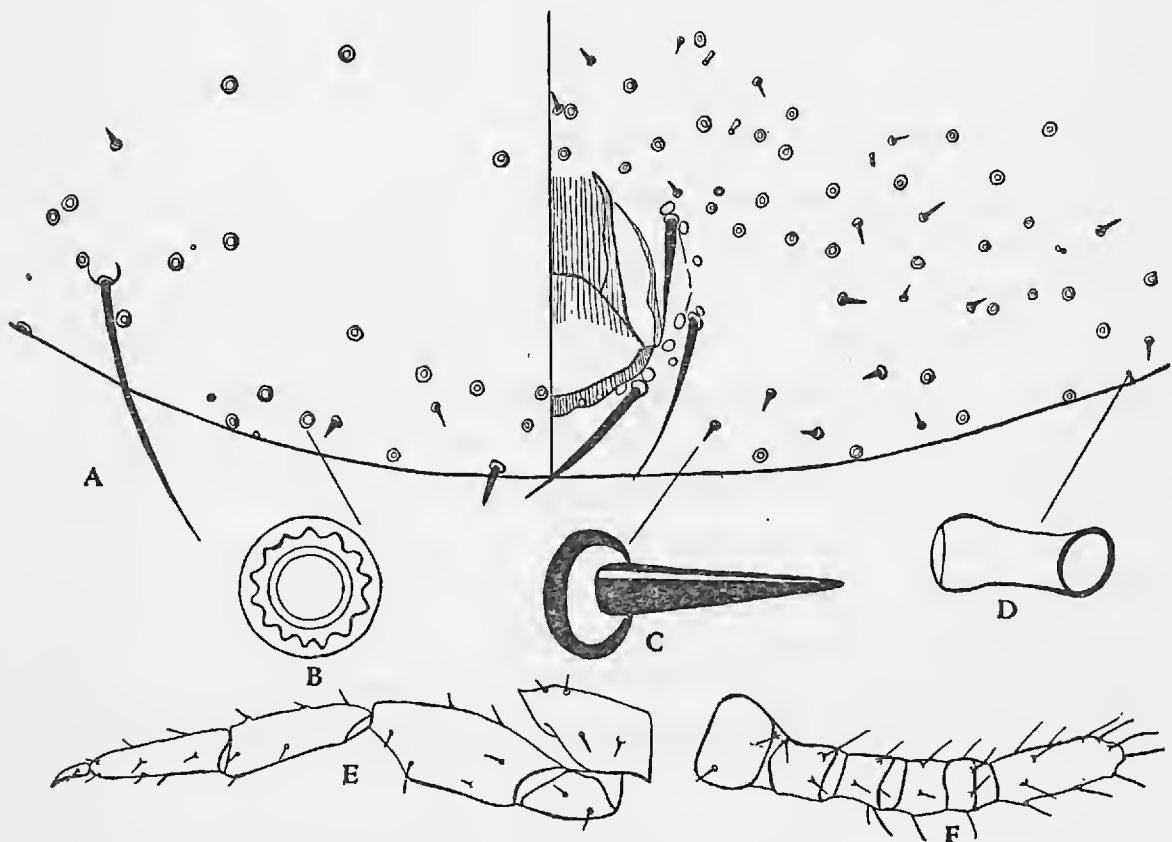


Figure A, posterior region of body; left, ventral side; right, dorsal side; figure B, multilocular pore; figure C, seta; figure D, tubular duct; figure E, leg; figure F, antenna.